

# THE GOODIE BAG

## VIKING SPOTLIGHT

By: Robin L. Reese  
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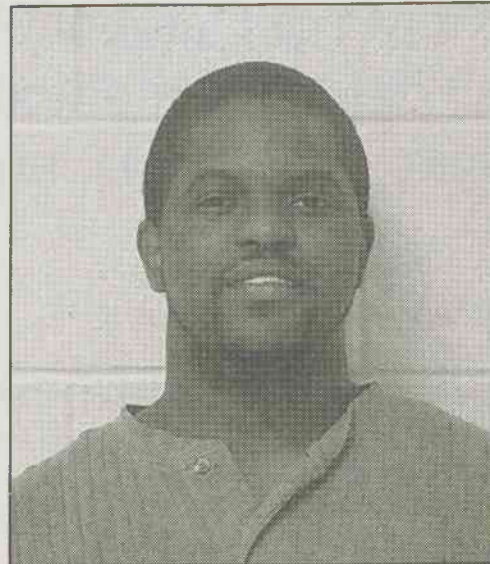
### GETTING TO KNOW.....

1. NAME: Cherita Monique Smith
2. BIRTHDATE: February 13, 1979
3. CLASSIFICATION: Senior
4. MAJOR: Music with a concentration in Applied Trumpet and Percussion
5. PARENTS: David and Patricia Smith
6. SIBLINGS: Treva, Yashica, Shrona, & Duriel
7. HOMETOWN: Roanoke Rapids, NC
8. CLUBS/ORGANIZATIONS: Band
9. HONORS: National Dean's List
10. THE THING I LIKE MOST ABOUT ECSU: The friendships I have acquired here
11. THINGS I DO IN MY SPARE TIME: I like to write poetry, read books, play my trumpet, talk on the telephone, watch T.V. and sleep
12. THE BEST BOOK I'VE EVER READ: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF THE ROCK
13. FAVORITE T.V. SHOWS: WWE Raw, WWE Smackdown, Girlfriends and E.R.
14. IF I COULD CHANGE ONE



THING I WOULD: Change the way people talk about each other behind their back

15. MY IDEAL OF A PERFECT MATE: Is someone who is honest, has the Lord in his life, knows how to treat a woman, and has one of these (3) qualities light-skinned, curly hair and has dimples
16. THREE PEOPLE I WOULD INVITE TO DINNER: Dwayne "THE ROCK" Johnson, Matt & Jeff Hardy
17. MY MOTTO TO OTHERS IS: As long as you are true to yourself; You don't have to worry about anything else



1. NAME: Christopher L. Whitfield, Jr.
2. BIRTHDATE: June 18, 1976
3. CLASSIFICATION: Graduate Student
4. MAJOR: Music Industry Studies w/Concentration in Engineering and Technology
5. PARENTS: Mr. And Mrs. Christopher L. Whitfield, Sr.
6. SIBLINGS: Chauncey and Chelsea Whitfield
7. HOMETOWN: Kinston, NC
8. CLUBS/ORGANIZATIONS: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
9. HONORS: None at this time still the best kept secret
10. THE THING I LIKE MOST ABOUT ECSU: Diverse background of the student body

11. THINGS I DO IN MY SPARE TIME: Write music, practice music, listen to music, record music... anything dealing with music
12. THE BEST BOOK I'VE EVER READ: This Business of Music... next to the Bible runs a close 2nd
13. FAVORITE T.V. SHOWS: 106 and Park, Jazz Central, Comic View, Sports center
14. IF I COULD CHANGE ONE THING I WOULD: Have went to class more during undergraduate classes.
15. MY IDEA OF A PERFECT MATE: Someone that listens and has a focused opinion, can cook all the things that are not good for me meaning anything with grease, i.e. Collards, Yams, Mashed Potatoes, Fresh Picnic Hams, BBQ Spare Ribs...etc
16. THREE PEOPLE I WOULD INVITE TO DINNER: My mother, my wife, and my daughter.... The last two whenever I get them, so I guess that's just one person right now....
17. MY MOTTO TO OTHERS IS: Life is change. Growth is optional. Choose wisely.

## A FALLEN STUDENT STRIVES FOR EXCELLENCE

Jerome Solomon  
Contributor

If students are determined, hard-working, and optimistic, this will assist them in achieving their desired academic status. With these characteristics strictly put into practice on a regular basis, over time students can obtain improvement.

I am a sophomore here at Elizabeth City State University majoring in Psychology. I want to become a psychologist. I am originally from Boston, Massachusetts, but now reside in the small town of Ahoskie, located in Hertford County.

My freshman year ended up being extremely embarrassing and devastating due to total disregards because I ignored my parents and grandmother's knowledgeable advice. My mother is a former student of Salem State University; my dad is a former student at Boston College,

and my grandmother a graduate of Boston College with a Masters Degree in Computer Science. As you might expect, from what my immediate family has accomplished my expectations to do well in college are very high.

As a freshman and unfamiliar with college life, I very quickly began to make bad decisions. The transition from high school to college was a very big adjustment for me to handle along with classes being so wide spread and the lack of personal transportation to get around. Choices are always there, but it was up to me to choose the choice that best caters to my needs and results in a positive outcome. During my first year at ECSU, I became so preoccupied with having fun that I nearly sacrificed my education for the time consuming fun that I was having with my friends. By second semester it almost seemed as if making wrong judgments was con-

tagious. A semester of missed classes from lack of sleep, bad grades, and a careless attitude finally began to catch up with me. The reality was that I needed to reevaluate my surroundings and gradually work my way up to where I needed to be. The first step in performing this task was to assume responsibility for my own actions and to stop making excuses. Once this step was completed it was time to move on in a new direction.

Following an improved spring semester, I enrolled in summer school and took nine credit hours. Staying on campus my freshman year was one of my biggest downfalls, because it was a responsibility that I now know that I was not ready for. As a result of my awful freshman year, I am now living off campus where I am exposed to fewer distractions. Though I am not exactly where I want to be at this particular point and time, I know that it will not be long before I get there.

The first reason for sharing my significant and personal first year experiences openly is because I am sure I am not alone. I am also sure there is at least one other student out there that is going through the same or similar experiences. The second reason is to hopefully aid others; by using my bad experience as an example so other students can avoid this downfall. More importantly, I want other ECSU students to realize that making a mistake is not the end of the world and that there is a solution to every obstacle students may face all through college. From my mistake I learned never to give up and to strive to conquer my goals, no matter how far away they may seem to be. Sometimes what may seem to be so far away and at an end is in actuality only the beginning of something spectacular that is only one step away.

## CAN'T WE ALL JUST GET ALONG?

James Hill  
jiggabone@hotmail.com

As I look at the ECSU campus, I am proud and disappointed at the same time. I am of my brothers and sisters who are striving to make something of themselves. I am proud of the ones who stay up late or wake up early to study. I am proud of the ones who are on a search for knowledge. But I am disappointed at the ones who don't realize the rare opportunities that lie before them and those who believe college life is all about partying, sex, and sitting in front of the dorms all day long hoping to get ahead in life. Sometimes, I even forget how fortunate I am.

There has been a lot more violence on campus this semester and it needs to stop. This year, numerous unnecessary incidents have already occurred. A young lady was severely cut in an altercation that happened a few weeks ago. It was also said that a young lady was raped in Butler Hall. Who is setting the dumpsters on fire? What are the motives behind these acts?

Rev. Dr. Askew, former Spiritual Activities Coordinator, expressed his views on the campus violence this year. He feels that there have been witnesses to the violent incidents that occurred these past few weeks, but they are not willing to speak up and report what happened. He also said

that if the campus community continues to allow these people to get away with their wrong acts, they will continue to do them.

The campus security needs to beef up and there should be visible patrolling on the campus," said D.L. Underdue, Program Director at WRVS-FM.

The campus police need more people on their team. If possible, we should have two security guards covering each area on campus so the students can feel safer.

"We should have a Fraternity and Sorority Day, where all the fraternities and sororities come together to bring more unity to the campus," said Mario Bradley, a junior English major.

The fraternities and sororities,

along with the athletes, can have a powerful impact on the campus if they come together. They are the most closely watched people on campus and if they lead, the rest of the campus will follow.

Perhaps, ECSU faculty, staff, and students need a change of heart. If we switch our minds in a positive direction and keep our focus on readjustments, academics, and campus improvement, we can be a more powerful force. Many students have a vision, but will not take the action to make it a reality.

At ECSU, we need to replace hate with love.